



Washington State conviction criminal history record information (CHRI) is available on the Internet using WATCH.

The release of conviction CHRI is permitted under the Washington State Criminal Records Privacy Act, Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 10.97.050 and under the Child and Adult Abuse Information Act, RCW 43.43.830-43.43.845. All criminal history background check responses include sex and kidnapping offender registration information.

Washington State Criminal Records Privacy Act RCW 10.97.050

Allows dissemination of all convictions and any arrests less than one year old pending disposition. Under Washington State law, conviction CHRI is available without restriction to anyone.

Child and Adult Abuse Information Act RCW 43.43.830-43.43.845.

Provides limited conviction CHRI which includes crimes against children or other persons; crimes relating to financial exploitation of a vulnerable adult; crimes relating to drugs as defined in RCW

43.43.830; and certain civil adjudications. Background checks can be requested on **prospective employees, volunteers, or adoptive parents** who will or may have unsupervised access to children under sixteen years of age, developmentally disabled persons, or vulnerable adults. The background check is for **initial employment or engagement decisions only.**

WATCH allows you to request, view, and print conviction CHRI. However, to inquire about a person and to obtain his or her record, you must enter the exact spelling of the person's name and the correct date of birth. Otherwise, the criminal history record may not be found.

What is the cost of conducting a WATCH search?

WATCH allows search reports to be purchased with a credit card or by using an account established with the Washington State Patrol. A \$10 fee is charged for each name search, regardless of the result. Pursuant to RCW 43.43.830, non-profit organizations licensed in Washington State are exempt from payment requirements when they are performing searches of convictions for crimes against children or vulnerable adults on prospective employees or volunteers.

What are the WATCH results?

The search will result in one of the following:

- ◆ A No Record, which means there is no conviction CHRI in the database matching the search parameters entered.
- ◆ A possible candidate, exact name, or social security number list, and the ability to immediately retrieve a transcript of record

(RAP sheet).

- ◆ An indication when more than one matching record is found (indeterminate) with instructions to contact the Section to arrange for further processing of the search.

Washington State statute (RCW 10.97.050) requires that the Washington State Patrol, Identification and Criminal History Section, retain information about the dissemination including subject of inquiry, the name of the person requesting the CHRI, and date of the search.

How can I conduct a search through WATCH?

WATCH can be accessed through any personal computer with access to the Internet. An account number may be established to receive a monthly billing invoice or you may establish an on-line credit card account and use Discover, American Express, Visa, or MasterCard.

How do I establish an account?

An account application can be printed by accessing WATCH "Forms" on the website, contacting the Section at (360) 705-5100, or by sending e-mail to watch.help@wsp.wa.gov. A completed application submitted to the Section will be processed within 7 - 14 days.

What are the limitations when conducting a search using WATCH?

WATCH search results are provided based on a name and date of birth match or close match to a name in the criminal history database. Nicknames, former names, maiden names, and dates of birth will affect responses received. Searches based on name and date of birth are not always accurate.

Positive verification or non-verification of criminal history can be effected only upon receipt of fingerprints. Contact the Identification and Criminal History Section for further information on fingerprinting fees and services.

The Identification and Criminal History Section database may not contain **all arrests and dispositions** within the state of Washington. There may be instances when arrest offenses or court dispositions are not sent to the Section or instances when information may be pending data entry into the CHRI database. Additional information pertaining to an individual may be available at local criminal justice agencies.

Does WATCH provide nationwide information?

No. WATCH only provides Washington State conviction criminal history.

For further information, please contact the Identification and Criminal History Section at (360) 705-5100.

**Washington State Patrol
Identification and Criminal History Section
PO Box 42633
Olympia, WA 98504-2633**

**Washington State Patrol
Criminal Records Division
Identification and Criminal History Section
PO Box 42633
Olympia WA 98504-2633**



***WASHINGTON
ACCESS TO
CRIMINAL HISTORY***



- ♦ <https://watch.wsp.wa.gov>
 - ♦ www.wsp.wa.gov
 - ♦ <http://www.access.wa.gov>
-